

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS, AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD January 23, 2023

Date:	January 23, 2023
Time:	9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Location:	Zoom originating from Juneau, Alaska
Attending:	Chair Dorene Hagen, Vice Chair Sammie O’Neal, Rachel Buddin-Young, Teresa Cotton, Public Member Eleanor Vinson
Absent:	None
Members of the Department:	OLE Logan Bugayong, Board Liaison Sara Chambers, Regulations Specialist II Alison Osborne

Call to Order/Roll Call	
The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM	
Review and Approve Agenda	
Brief Discussion:	No amendments to be made to the agenda.
Motion:	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to approve the agenda.</i>
Ethics Report	
Brief Discussion:	The board had no ethics to report.
Legislative Proposal Review	
Brief Disucssion:	<p>A. The board started their discussion with reviewing the draft prepared by Sammie O’Neal regarding compact legislation. At the previous quarterly meeting, the board announced their intent to join the Interstate Counseling Compact. The draft provided by Sammie O’Neal outlined the benefits for Alaska and detailed how the compact would work in regards to home state licensure versus practice privileges, the requirements of a licensee to qualify for compact membership, and the data base that would be utilized to communicate with state boards and the regulatory agencies in each jurisdiction. Teresa Cotton had asked regarding the financial aspects of the compact and the effect it would have on the board’s finances. Compact members will be required to apply for the privilege to practice in Alaska and the board will have the authority to set the application fee. In addition, the compact may reduce the workload of the examiner by reducing the number of applications for full licensure that come from professionals who have a limited, intended scope of practice in Alaska.</p> <p>Eleanor Vinson mentioned that she has had counselors approach her with concerns regarding larger companies taking advantage of</p>

	<p>the compact and undermining local practices. At this time, there is a high demand for counselors and the need for clinicians has been expressed at past meetings by members of the public and the board. Rachel Buddin-Young explained that her concerns had been assuaged by the fact that Alaska may withdraw from this process at any time and the presentation from the Council of State Governments at the last quarterly meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that the Department of Defense will likely support this legislation as it will aid military personnel and spouses that are stationed in Alaska with the transition and further aid Military Family Life Counselors in providing support. Suicides in the military in Alaska decreased drastically from 2021 to 2022, due to pre-emptive efforts to hire more counselors and make mental health services more readily available. Teresa Cotton emphasized that she is in favor of the compact as it may reduce Alaska’s suicide rates further by creating easier access to mental health services.</p> <p>B. The board moved on to discuss the other statutory changes they are seeking to enact. The board is looking to implement tiered licensure for the supervision process by creating a “Licensed Associate Counselor” license type and requiring the Board Approved Supervisor credential to renew with continued competency, instead of remaining as a perpetual certification. Sara Chambers suggested the removal of Sec. 08.29.210, which defines the supervisor certification, and utilizing the authority granted in Sec. 08.29.020(a)(1) to create a new supervisor certification in regulation. This would further allow the board to ensure this certification can remain up to date with national standards as the process of supervision evolves over time. Furthermore, it was suggested that the board follows this model in regards to creating the Licensed Associate Counselor license type. Sara Chambers pointed out that the State Medical Board utilizes a similar statute to regulate the Physician’s Assistant license type.</p> <p>Sara Chambers will draft the letters to present to prospective legislative sponsors and will confer with Rachel Buddin-Young and Sammie O’Neal after the meeting.</p>
<p>Motion:</p>	<p><i>In a motion duly made by Teresa Cotton and seconded by Eleanor Vinson, it was resolved with unanimous consent that the board will support allowing Sara Chambers, Logan Bugayong, Rachel Buddin-Young, and Sammie O’Neal to finalize legislative drafts as discussed in this meeting and will support Rachel Buddin-Young and Sammie O’Neal in seeking legislative sponsorship of these drafts.</i></p>
<p>Travel Planning</p>	
<p>Brief Discussion:</p>	<p>The board discussed travel plans in regard to the February meeting. It was resolved that, should the board succeed in having a bill created regarding the statutory changes they wish to pursue, two board members will fly to Juneau to attend committee meetings and speak to legislators regarding the active bill. The February meeting will be held via zoom instead of in Juneau as it was previously discussed. The board then further clarified</p>

	travel to potential conferences as there were members absent from the last quarterly meeting.
Adjourn	
Motion:	<i>In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young and seconded by Teresa Cotton, it was resolved with unanimous consent to adjourn the meeting.</i>
Off Record: 10:54 AM	

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Dori Hagen, *Board Chair*

5/3/2023

Date

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Logan Bugayong, *Occupational License Examiner*

5/3/2023

Date